Cheap air service for Tripura

878. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the Prime Minister had given an assurance to the people of Tripura on the eve of last Tripura Assembly Election that a cheap air service will be introduced in the name of Janata service particularly for the land locked State of Tripura;

(b) if so, by when the service is likely to be started; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) Janata service to Agartala with discounted fares has already been introduced with effect from 2nd April, 1988.

Train services on newly constructed Alleppey line

879. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train services going to be started on the newly constructed Alleppey line in Kerala; and

(b) on which routes these will be running and the frequency of the services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) This line has not yet been opened for passenger traffic.

(b) Does not arise.

Cochin Madurai National Highway

880. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of construction regarding Cochin-Madurai National Highway;

(b) whether clearances from all State/Central departments have been received for this highway; and

(c) what is the estimated cost of construction and the route of the highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) The Cochin-Madurai Road was declared as a National Highway in February, 1989 and the respective State Government have been asked on 3rd March, 1989 to conduct inventory survey of the road to identify deficiencies etc. It is too early to indicate the estimated cost for construction/development of this route to National Highway standards.

Allocation for Cochin-Vypeen bridge

881. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmnet of Kerala had requested the Union Government to allocate Rs. 40 lakh for Cochin-Vypeen Bridge; and

(b) if so, the response of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Since this project falls on a State Road, Government of Kerala is primarily responsible for its construction. However, provided the State Government furnishes detailed information about the project, as has been called for, it can be considered for grant of loan assistance to the extent of 50 per cent under the Central Scheme of Economic Importance provided sufficient economic justification for the investment exists.